

## **Student Handout-Public Policy Research Guidelines**

### **EVALUATING A PUBLIC POLICY PROPOSAL**

Use these questions as an initial research step and then again at the end of the project as a self-assessment tool to measure the quality and completeness of your work.

Your research and presentation should clearly and COMPLETELY answer the following questions:

1. What local community problem needs to be solved? Is it really a problem? What evidence is there that the problem exists?
2. What is the significance of the problem? Is it really important? Do people really care about this problem? Who does it affect? How many people are affected?
3. Is it possible that this problem could go away by itself with time?
4. What is the proposed solution? Will it actually solve the problem? Will the solution create new unforeseen problems for anyone? If it helps one group, will it hurt another? Will it be affordable? Does it have any additional benefits?
5. Are there any alternative solutions? How could the solution described in #4 be improved?
6. Overall, how would you assess this policy proposal? Are you convinced it is the best way to go? Would it be accepted by the public? Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages? Explain.